financial powers from the Central Government to State Governments. (Chapter X of the Report of the Sarkaria Commission).

(ii) To examine the changes required in Article 356 of the Constitution of India. (Chapter VI of the Report of the Sarkaria Commission).

The Committee is yet to finalise its views on these two items. As decided in the meeting, views of the State Governments and members of the Standing Committee on these two issues have been received and compiled. The matter will be discussed in the next meeting of the Standing Committee which is likely to be convened shortly.

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

3696. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of claims paid to the farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount to be paid to the farmers outstanding so far, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not paying the remaining amount; and

(d) the time by which the outstanding dues are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) State-wise and year-wise details of admissible claims paid under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan are given in the statement.

(b) State-wise details of admissible claims outstanding are as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Amount
1.	Gujarat	16.35
2.	Madhya Pradesh	795.32
3.	Maharashtra	39.34
4.	Tamil Nadu	681.91
5.	West Bengal	321.04

(c) and (d) Outstanding claims are pending due to non-receipt of 1/3rd share from the concerned State Governments. The outstanding claims will be settled as soon as the share of State Government is received.

Statement

State-wise and year-wise Details of Claims paid under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme During the Eighth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	States	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1713.93	482.91	2569.00	1859.72	
2.	Assam	4.73	0.15	1.18	0.66	
3.	Bihar	1495.31	108.24	35.30	343.89	
4.	Goa	0.20	0.06	0.69	0.12	
5.	Gujarat	87.50	16239.76	450.84	8422.20	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5.07	3.02	0.89	0.00	
7.	Karnataka	534.22	282.58	108.88	367.82	
8.	Kerala	21.07	47.94	314.45	24.92	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Madhya Pradesh	273.25	43.18	3.67	0.00	
10.	Maharashtra	130.63	92.33	743.17	1366.51	
11.	Meghalaya	0.95	0.40	1.16	0.22	
12.	Orissa	467.30	116.85	902.03	759.30	
13.	Tamil Nadu	306.92	1244.87	184.43	54.56	
14.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	
15.	West Bengal	53.32	120.22	130.05	0.00	
16.	A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
17.	Pondicherry	1.10	42.78	0.00	0.00	
	Total	5095.50	18825.29	5446.19	13199.32	

*Claims for the year 1996-97 shall be known after the receipt of yield data.

Forecasting Information to Fishermen

3697. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to forecast information to the fishermen about the natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to save the fishermen from the natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The India Meteorological Department issues Fishermen's Bulletins regularly four times a day through All India Radio for broadcast in regional languages. During cyclone or depression, these bulletins contain information about (i) its position and direction of movement, (ii) the associate weather in respect of strong winds and state of the sea and (iii) advice to the fishermen not to venture into the sea. Fishermen are also advised during the monsoon season not to venture into the sea as and when there is likelihood of strong winds exceeding 45 kmph, squally weather, gale and very rough sea.

A pilot project for installing shore to boat communication system on fishing vessels, safety equipment, life saving devices and out-board motors for selected beneficiaries have been recently approved for implementation in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

The Department of Ocean Development has also taken up a scheme on Shore to Fishing Vessel Communication System for implementation during the Eighth plan period onwards for demonstrating the usefulness of communication technology for safety of fishermen at sea.

[English]

Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary

3698. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether eighty one rhinos were killed during 1995 and 1996 in Kaziranga wildlife sanctuary by the poachers;

(b) if so, the reasons for not protecting the lives of the wildlife animals in the sanctuary;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction; and

(d) the details of other wildlife animals killed by the poachers died of natural deaths in the last three years in the country?